THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE): (KM. SELJA): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government from the Government of Assam.

(c) Does not arise.

Welfare Measures for Young Widows

8387. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the welfare measures available to the young widows in the country, particularly in Delhi like age relaxation for appearing in the examinations for service purposes; and

(b) the details thereof and the procedure to avail those benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Young widows are covered under the regular programmes which are being run for the welfare and development of women such as working women Hostels, creches, family counselling centres, NORAD, STEP, CCEVT, SEP, DWCRA, IRDP (40 per cent reservation for Woment) etc. For employment in Government services, a widow can be appointed on compassionate grounds, after the death of her husband, in accordance with rules passed for this purpose.

For the purpose of appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' posts under the Central Government which are filled up through the Staff Selection Commission and the Employment Exchange, the upper age limit in the case of widows, divorced women and women judicially separated from their husbands who are not remarried can be relaxed upto the age of 35 years (upto 40 years for members of Scheduled Caste|Scheduled Tribes) by invoking the provisions in the relevant recruitment rules. The age relaxation to widows has also been extended to group 'A' and 'B' posts except where recruitment is to be made through open competitive examination.

In addition to above, Government of India have included widows|divorced women under priority III in the list of categories to whom priority for appointment to Groups 'C' and 'D' vacancies have been allowed. These facilities have been given w.e.f. 17-10-1984.

The National Capital Territory Government of Delhi is providing financial assistance to widows under the Delhi Financial Assistance to Widows Rules 1988. Under the rules widows are eligible for a solution of Rs. 300|- to meet the contingencies resulting from death of husband and lump sum assistance upto Rs. 1500|- for starting any income generating profession/vocation subject to meeting the eligibility conditions *inter-alia* of domicile and having no regular means of subsistance and whole income from all sources including that of dependents do not exceed Rs. 750|- p.m.

The Department of Social Welfare, Government of Delhi is running Widow Home at Jail Road, Tihar, Delhi. This Widow Home undertakes the socio-economit rehabilitation of widows through education, vocational training, craft training, gainful employment family restoration and marriage (wherever feasible). Trained widow women are provided financial assistance of Rs. 5000|- as grant for rehabilitation. Admissions to the Home are given to widow women of 18 years to 45 years of age on their written requests.

Seminar of violence against women

8388. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Seminar was held in the capital recently on the subject of growing violence against women in the country;

(b) whether there is a huge pile-up of legal cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that lack of urgency and deterrence in the present law are responsible for this pile-up;

(d) whether Government have identified other factors responsible for this increase; and

(e) if so, what measures are in the offing to deal with this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. A one day Seminar "Is Law Enough: Violence against women and remedial actions" was organised by the Centre for Social Research, New Delhi on 8-4-1995.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is a part of the general problem of piling up of cases in courts.

(c) and (d) The pendency of cases relate to many complex factors, including the general increase in the registration of crimes and institution of cases in Courts.

(e) The general problem of arrears of cases in courts, *inter alia*, was discussed in the meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in December, 1993. State Governments have also been addressed on this issue. Steps such as setting up of Mahila Courts in Andhra Pradesh can help reduce arreaears of cases of violence against women. The setting up of more family courts is also an effective step towards resolving family conflicts. The National Commission for Women has also recommended gender sensitization training for police, prosecutors, magistrates etc. Efforts have already been initiated towards the orientation training of police personnel at all levels. Further, the review, of laws is also a continuous process for making provisions effective and streamlining procedures.

National Elementary Education Mission

8389. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new scheme of National Elementary Education Mission has been launched recently in the country;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) whether the new scheme launched will help in achieving UN mandate of Education for All?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE): (KM. SELJA): (a) to (c) In the conference Education Ministers held on 4-4-1995 it was decided to launched the National Elementary Education Mission. The details of the Mission are being finalised.

Assessment of marks in Nos.

8390. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision of continuous assessments in each subject for Secondary/Senior Secondary courses to be conducted by the National Open School;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the necessary marks of assignments have been sent by the concerned Study Centres/Accredited Institutions to the Office of NOS in respect of the students who are appearing in the examination of May 1995;

(d) if so, whether the concerned students have been communicated the marks awarded for their assignments for their information and improvement; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?